



17 January 2007

### **Alleged Assault and Rape by a US Servicemember**

1. This past weekend I was informed by the Korean authorities of an alleged rape and assault by a US Soldier against an elderly woman -- indeed a grandmother -- as she was walking home from work early Sunday morning in downtown Seoul. USFK is fully supporting the Korean authorities as they investigate this case, and our strongest desire is that justice will be done. In this Alliance environment the criminal actions of one individual can have enormous negative strategic implications for all our forces stationed in the Republic of Korea, as well as for the Alliance itself.

2. We believe this alleged crime involved the consumption of alcohol, was perpetrated by a Soldier acting alone, and that the Soldier was almost surely a curfew violator. It is vital that commanders and leaders at all levels review policies and re-energize their procedures for mitigating sexual assault and off-duty misconduct.

- I expect officer and NCO leaders to take responsibility for our Servicemembers on and off-duty. We are accountable.
- I expect all Servicemembers to understand they are Ambassadors for America and behave as appreciative guests in this wonderful land. I expect Servicemembers to adhere to the buddy system and combat wingman concept. Refer to our [USFK Command Policy Letter #6, "Buddy System."](#)
- The Curfew must be strictly followed and enforced as directed in [USFK Command Policy #7, "General Order Regarding Off-Installation Curfew."](#)
- I expect that off-limits areas will be clearly communicated and violations enforced throughout our formations.
- I require that each Servicemember coming to the Peninsula be certified employing USFK Regulation 350-2 Training module which can be found under the mandatory [Theater Specific Required Training](#) link.
- I expect all leaders to implement Under the Oak Tree (UTOT) Counseling procedures iaw [USFK Policy Letter #2, Command Safety.](#)

3. Every Servicemember represents the United States. The Korean people look to us to be Good Neighbors. We cannot allow the reprehensible actions of even one individual to create a negative impression of Americans as a whole in the minds of our Korean hosts. Remember, you are an American Ambassador and your actions should always reflect positively on all Americans.

We Go Together!

B. B. BELL  
General, US Army  
Commander

**FREEDOM'S FRONTIER!**

**B  
E  
L  
L  
  
S  
E  
N  
D  
S**

**#**

**13-07**